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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/088,215

03/23/00

MANFRE

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33471/GM/VP

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30123 MILANO
ITALY

MMC2/0713

EXAMINER

SHAFFER, R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

AIR MAIL

2872

DATE MAILED:

07/13/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/533,215

Applicant(s)

MANFRE ET AL

Examiner

R D SHAFER

Group Art Unit

2872

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTHS MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/17/01

☒ This action is FINAL.

- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2872

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Altmann ('395).

Altmann discloses a rear-view mirror for a vehicle comprising a monolithic plastic body having a flat surface (4, 4') and an opposite aspheric reflecting surface (7, 7') which is inherently/~~obviously~~ installed on a vehicle in a particular manner due to the fact that the mirror is for a vehicle, note figures 2 and 3, wherein the aspheric shape of the reflecting surface is inherently/~~obviously~~ generated by the rotation, about an axis parallel and/or perpendicular to a centerline axis of a vehicle on which the mirror is to be installed, of a curve which satisfies the equation recited by applicant due to the physical nature of the reflecting surface being ^Sconvex.

12/2/95

any time
look in
the mirror
the image
will appear

Smaller than ~~the~~ actual size of object.

the magnification is always
i.e. always greater than zero

And less than one
the magnification value always less than one as
the equation

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As to the limitations of claims 3 and 4, the examiner is of the opinion that the monolithic body and reflecting surface of Altmann were inherently made by one of the techniques recited by applicant.

However, if this is not the case, it certainly would have been obvious and/or within the level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the monolithic body and reflecting surface of Altmann to include one of the techniques recited by applicant due to the fact that such techniques are well known and commonly used and employed in the mirror art in order to alternatively make a monolithic body and/or reflecting surface.

3. Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Altmann in view of common knowledge in the art.

Altmann discloses all of the subject matter claimed, note the above explanation, except for the reflective surface or the flat surface being electrically conducting.

It is well known to make a surface of a mirror element electrically conducting in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of heating and/or controlling the transmissivity and reflectivity of a mirror assembly.

Therefore, it would have been obvious and/or within the level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the reflective and/or flat surface of Altmann to include typical electrically conducting means as is well known and commonly used and employed in the mirror art in order to heat and/or control the transmissivity and reflectivity of said rear view mirror.

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4. Claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuld ('603) in view of Altmann ('395).

Schuld discloses a rear view mirror for a vehicle comprising a monolithic plastic body (16) having a flat surface (18a) and an opposite convex reflecting surface (20a) which is inherently/obviously installed on a vehicle in a particular manner due to the fact that the mirror is for a vehicle, wherein the convex surface satisfies the equation recited by applicant due to the physical nature of the reflecting surface being convex, note fig. 2, except for explicitly stating that the convex reflecting surface is aspheric.

Altmann teaches it is known to make a convex reflecting surface aspheric in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of reducing aberrations.

Therefore, it would have been obvious and/or within the level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the convex reflecting surface of Schuld to include an aspheric convex reflecting surface as taught by Altmann in order to reduce aberrations.

As to the limitations of claims 3 and 4, the examiner is of the opinion that the monolithic body and reflecting surface of Schuld were inherently made by one of the techniques recited by applicant.

However, if this is not the case, it certainly would have been obvious and/or within the level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the monolithic body and reflecting surface of Schuld to include one of the techniques recited by

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applicant due to the fact that such techniques are well known and commonly used and employed in the mirror art in order to alternatively make a monolithic body and/or reflecting surface.

5. Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuld in view of Altmann as applied to claim s 1-4, 6, 8 and 9 above, and further in view of common knowledge in the art.

Schuld in view of Altmann discloses all of the subject matter claimed, note the above explanation, except for the reflective surface or the flat surface being electrically conducting.

It is well known to make a surface of a mirror element electrically conducting in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of heating and/or controlling the transmissivity and reflectivity of a mirror assembly.

Therefore, it would have been obvious and/or within the level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the reflecting and/or flat surface of Schuld in view of Altmann to include typical electrically conducting means as is commonly used employed in the mirror art in order to heat and/or control the transmissivity and reflectivity of said rear view mirror.

6. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the reflective and flat surfaces being electrically conducting and the heating element must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

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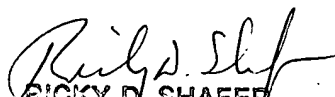
7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to R. D. Shafer at telephone number (703) 308-4813.

RDS

July 9, 2001


RICKY D. SHAFER
PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2872